



SURPLUS PROPERTY PURCHASING AGENCY
STATE OF ARIZONA
ARIZONA HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT BUILDING
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

ROBERT O. KELLY
PURCHASING AGENT

May 8, 1947

Gov. Sydney P. Osborn,
Governor of Arizona,
Phoenix, Arizona.

My Dear Governor Osborn:

On my recent trip to Fort Huachuca I talked with Col. R. L. Roberts, of the United States Army. He gave me the attached data on Fort Huachuca, to be given to you for your information.

Col. Roberts is of the opinion that this Fort should not be declared Surplus and would like to have the aid of your office and our Congressional Delegation in Washington, D. C. in preventing this Fort from being declared Surplus. You will note that he has set his reasons for this request and data which is attached. Col. Roberts stated that he would personally call on you in your office at your convenience to explain the situation, as it concerns Fort Huachuca today.

He is also of the opinion that Fort Huachuca could be maintained on a standby basis at a minimum cost to the United States Government.

Very truly yours,

Robert O. Kelly,
Surplus Property Pur. Agent.,
State of Arizona.

ROK:dw

DATA - Fort Huachuca, Arizona

1. Fort Huachuca contains both an old permanent post, about 500 buildings, and a new cantonment. The old post, built for a regiment, was started in the early 1870's, and has grown as army posts do. The cantonment of about 1000 buildings was build for World War II, mainly in 1942.

Fort Huachuca is 18 miles south of Tombstone; 43 miles from Bisbee, 90 miles from Tucson. The old post is snuggled into the mouth of Huachuca Canyon at a heighth of 5000 feet. It is separated by about 1-1/2 miles from cantonment.

2. CONDITION OF BUILDINGS:

Old Post - Excellent to good.

Cantonment - Very good to excellent.

A division of troops could occupy same immediately. Utilities such as water, gas, electricity, and sewage can operate immediately.

All glass is in windows. Cantonment buildings should be painted within a year. Some freeze-damaged plumbing needs attention.

70 odd buildings, T/O type, tar paper slides, are excess and are now up for sale and demolition. These have been surplus for nearly a year.

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--------------------|
| 12 single, adobe Officers Quarters | - | Elcellent to good. |
| 15 Double, " " " | - | " " " |
| 2 bachelor " " " | - | " " " |
| 39 sets NCO quarters | - | " " " |
| 12 Barracks, EM, Old Post | - | Good |
| 200 " " , Cantonment | - | Very good |
| 3 " WAC, " | - | " " |
| 8 Quarters, adobe, Indian " | - | Good |
| 337 " , Civilian, Wartime Const. | - | Good |
| 4 Dormitories | - | Very good |

3. Roads:

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|------------|
| Primary roads, 24' to 46' | - | 16.6 miles |
| Secondary " 20' to 22' bit & gravel | - | 35.9 " |
| Other " 10' to 16', graded and gravel | - | 65.0 " |

4. RAILROAD: Branch line Southern Pacific, 9.1 miles track in Reservation.

5. WATER SYSTEM: 5 reservoirs. Fed by 8 springs and 5 deep wells. Water lines from 4" to 20". - 242,200 feet.

6. SEWAGE DISPOSAL:

2 Treatment Plants and 1 Septic tank.

Sewer lines - 231,000 feet.

7. ELECTRICAL SYSTEM:

Primary power furnished commercially.

Standby power plant - 4 AC Generators.

Sufficient to handle one division. Ready to operate.

DATA: Fort Huachuca - Continued.

8. COMMUNICATIONS:

Automatid switchboard - 5 lines to Bisbee
17 miles pole lines. Cable. Telegraph by Western Union.

9. RECREATIONAL:

3 Swimming pools (2 post, 1 cantonment)
2 Bowling alleys (6 alley cantonment, 2 alley post)
2 Officers Clubs (1 inactive)
2 Red Cross Clubs
2 Service Clubs
1 Football Stadium (10,000) (Cantonment)
1 Baseball " (10,000) (Cantonment)
1 " " (2,500) (Post)
Many tennis courts, practice diamonds, etc.

10. SERVICES:

2 Bakeries (2,500 lbs. daily) (inactive)
2 Laundries (30,000 persons) (inactive)
2 Ice Plants (40T and T (1 operating)
2 Cold Storage Bldgs. (16,600 Sq. ft.) (1 operating)
1 Dry Cleaning Plant (16,000) (inactive)
Repair Shops (inactive)
1 Post Office, operating
1 Shoe Shop)
1 Tailor Shop) Concessions,
1 Bank) operating.
1 Cleaners)
1 Library, operating
5 Theatres (1 operating).

11. MAGAZINES:

20 Igloos, wire inclosed.

12. AIRFIELD:

Excellent air-strip, 6600 x 150.
Cross strip. Handles 2 motor planes.

13. TRAINING FACILITIES:

Adequate up to 165 guns for artillery.
Adequate for AAA.
150 firing points on known distance range.
75,600 acres adequate for several exercises at one time.
Adequate for mountain training.
Several acres with obstacle courses, gganade courts, barenet
courts, gas chambers, etc.

14. HEALTH:

Excellent to Superior. No swamps; no mosquitos.
Ideal for health.
Sun is visible 315 days annually, 242 of which are entirely
cloudless.

15. CEMETERY:

Has 471 graves.

16. PROPERTY:

Considerable QM and Engineer equipment.
Equipment for 650 bed hospital.
Small amount of ordnance, particularly shop material.
No ammunition.
Large amount of Special Service material, PX equipment.

17. GRAZING:

3 large areas now being used for grazing.
2 licenses pending.

18. UNEXPLODED SHELLS:

A few are known to be located in artillery in post area.

19. ADVANTAGES OF FORT HUACHUCA:

1. 365 day training weather a year.
2. One of best climates in world.
3. Large training area, with few inhabitants.
4. Ranges for most artillery, infantry, armored and AA weapons.
5. Cantonment and Post now ready for occupancy.
6. Deteriorization is little due to dryness.
7. Only Post between El Paso and California on border.
8. Historical and sentimental.
9. Surplus value is little because of high cost of labor and excessive freight costs.
10. Only Ground Force installation in Arizona.
11. In atom war, its isolation is valuable asset.
12. Arizona use as NO, ORC, and UMT camp.
13. Excellent for mountain training.
14. Use for Engineer Test Branch instead of sinking millions into Yuma.
15. Possible strained relations with Mexico in future.
16. Possible use within next 10 years in case of war with Russia

20. DISADVANTAGES:

1. Isolation.
2. Dry seasons.
3. Unsuitable for water operations.